

Promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation

For generating blood through voluntary blood donation programme, Government of India have taken a number of steps as follows:

1. A campaign has been launched for motivating people for donating blood voluntarily through specially developed TV spots telecast through Doordarshan at suitable intervals during prime time.
2. Messages are broadcast on voluntary blood donation through Times FM channel in one of their music programmes.
3. National AIDS Control Organisation with the help of Central Health Education Bureau have developed proto-type Information Education and Communication material for one to one communication on Voluntary Blood Donation Programme in the form of folders, posters and stickers and the same have been given to various States and UTs for use and reproduction in local languages.
4. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) have initiated a pilot project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities, with a view to fill up the gap between demand and availability of blood through voluntary donations.

The specific objectives of the project being:

- (a) To address existing myths, misinformation and inhibitions regarding blood donation from the minds of people through awareness campaigns;
- (b) To train communicators to motivate healthy people to become voluntary donors.
- (c) To develop computerised system for networking information about voluntary donors and operating blood banks.

Department of Science and Technology have intimated that studies have been initiated in 10 cities for determining the status of blood collection etc. The assessment of the software available for motivation the voluntary blood donors has been completed and proposals for developing new software have been taken up. Apart from this, training modules for motivators are also being developed. Proposals for computerised system for blood banks and networking have also been received from various organisations and are being examined.

Some of the activities included in this programme pertain to development of software (films, slides, posters etc.) for propagation of voluntary blood donation messages, training of communicators, creating database for networking of information etc.

5. Every year, 1st of October, is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood donation Day. Special campaigns to educate the masses on the need for voluntary donation of blood is undertaken through mass media and special camps for blood collection are organised.
6. A number of steps have been proposed for undertaking an extensive programme for Voluntary Blood Donation. A Committee of Experts have been set up to prepare a Comprehensive National Blood Policy and to work out a mechanism for the promotion of voluntary blood donation programme on an all India basis. A scheme is being framed under the National Blood Transfusion Council for undertaking extensive training programmes for community leaders including school/college teachers, trade union leaders, prominent citizens etc. to train them as motivators for encouraging voluntary blood donation.

[English]

Relations with Myanmar

*17. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the Myanmar authorities about incidents on the border between India and Myanmar at Moeh in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):
(a) to (c) The Myanmar authorities have conveyed to Government their deep concern over the incident on 12th Oct., 1997 in which 365 shops at Namphalong market at Tamu on the Myanmar side of the Indo-Myanmar border, opposite to Moreh in India, were reported to have been burnt down, and three persons including one Myanmar immigration official were injured. The Government of Myanmar have complained that Kuki insurgents were involved in the incident and that they entered Myanmar from Moreh and later returned to the Indian territory. Government have also seen reports that the so-called Kuki National Army has claimed responsibility for the incident.

2. The Myanmar authorities had sought a flag meeting between high authorities of the two countries. Government responded promptly as soon as the incident was reported and in pursuance of the Myanmar Government's request a meeting was held on 15th Oct., between senior Government officials of the two countries. The State Government of Manipur have instructed the District Administration to investigate the case so as to bring the culprits to book if they are on Indian soil and to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquility in the area.

3. Government are committed to ensuring that there is peace and normalcy and that border trade between India and Myanmar is allowed to continue uninterrupted.

Foreign Militants

*18. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign militants operating in the Kashmir Valley have now established their new bases in the outskirts of Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of clashes which took place between the security forces and the foreign militants since their concentration in the outskirts of Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) As per available reports, no new bases of foreign militants, have been established in the outskirts of Srinagar. The security forces are however vigilant and are taking all necessary steps to contain the activities of militants/foreign militants in J&K including Srinagar and its outskirts. It is not possible to indicate the precise number of clashes between the Security Forces and the foreign militants exclusively, yet the number of foreign militants arrested or killed from January, 1990 to Sept., 1997 is 136 and 645 respectively.

[Translation]

MPLADS

19. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that works under the MPLAD Scheme are being got done by District Magistrates without the approval of concerned Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have been brought to the notice of the Union Government during the last two years along with the name of the constituencies where these works have been got done; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those who are responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) and (b) Three cases of work reportedly got done by the District Heads of Jalandhar, Morena and Mirzapur without the recommendation of the concerned Member of Parliament have been brought to the notice of the Govt.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the State Governments and collectors concerned for appropriate action.

Population Control

*20. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many States such as Uttar Pradesh have failed to control population inspite of spending million of rupees on Family Planning Programmes;

(b) whether ambitious schemes have been started with the assistance from the Union Government and foreign agencies during the last two years but these proved flop in controlling population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps being taken by the Union government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The National Family Welfare Programme has been able to achieve significant reduction in Birth Rate in the country as a whole. The Birth Rate in the country declined from 41.7 per thousand in 1951-61 to 27.4 in 1996. The progress has, however, been uneven, with States like Uttar Pradesh (Birth Rate 34.0 in 1996), Bihar (32.1), Rajasthan (32.3) and Madhya Pradesh (32.4) still having a high Birth Rate.